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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: DIETER W. POHL ET AL, Docket No.: ~~01-406~~

Serial No.: 09/904,286

Examiner :

OLSEN

Filed : July 12, 2001

Art Unit :

1744

For : METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE  
CONTROLLED CONDITIONING OF  
SCANNING PROBES

900 Chapel Street  
Suite 1201  
New Haven, CT 06510-2802

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
United States Patent & Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants hereby submit the prior art documents listed hereinbelow, copies enclosed, which prior art was cited in the corresponding European Search Report.

- (1) APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, American Institute of Physics, entitled USE OF SOLID ELECTROLYTIC EROSION FOR GENERATING NANO-APERTURE NEAR-FIELD COLLECTORS, By D. Mulin et al., Vol. 71, No. 4, July 28, 1997, pages 437-439.

- (2) OPTICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, entitled CHEMICAL SILVER COATING OF FIBER TIPS IN NEAR-FIELD SCANNING OPTICAL MICROSCOPY, By C.S. Vikram et al., Vol. 24, No. 10, May 15, 1999, pages 682-684.
- (3) IBM TECHNICAL DISCLOSURE BULLETIN, entitled IN SITU SHARPENING OF ATOMIC FORCE MICROSCOPE TIPS, Vol. 38, No. 2, February 1, 1995, page 637.
- (4) PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 1995, No. 11, December 26, 1995, JP 07 198314 A (JEOL LTD), August 1, 1995.
- (5) PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 018, No. 430, August 11, 1994, JP 06 128800 A (NIKON CORP), May 10, 1994.
- (6) PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Vol. 1999, No. 14, December 22, 1999, JP 11 248720 A (SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC.), September 17, 1999.
- (7) International Publication No. WO 99/08099, published February 18, 1999. This reference discloses a method for efficient material application onto substrates or removal therefrom, whereby a scanning probe microscope working under atmospheric pressure is used.

(8) U.S. Patent No. 5,908,562 for METHOD FOR PRODUCING OPTICAL FIBER HAVING CORE WITH SHARPENED TIP PROTRUDING FROM LIGHT-SHIELDING COATING, By Motoichi Ohtsu et al., Patented June 1, 1999. This reference discloses an optical fiber made up of a core for propagating the light and a cladding covering the core for interrupting light propagated within the core.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

If any charges are required in connection with this submission, it is requested that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

DIETER W. POHL ET AL.

By Barry L. Kelmachter  
Barry L. Kelmachter  
Attorney for Applicants

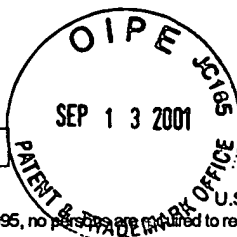
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## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

### Completion if Known

Application Number	09/904,286
Filing Date	July 12, 2001
First Named Inventor	DIETER W. POHL
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	01-406

Sheet 2 of 2

### OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials *	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T <sup>2</sup>
	1	APPLIED PHYSICS LETTERS, American Institute of Physics, entitled USE OF SOLID ELECTROLYTIC EROSION FOR GENERATING NANO-APERTURE NEAR-FIELD COLLECTORS, By D. Mulin et al., Vol. 71, No. 4, July 28, 1997, pages 437-439.	
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		PATENT ABSTRACT OF JAPAN, Vol. 1999, No. 14, December 22, 1999, JP 11 248720 A (SEIKO INSTRUMENTS INC.), September 17, 1999.	

Examiner  
Signature

Date  
Considered

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Unique citation designation number. <sup>2</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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